

XXXIX.—*Obituary*: Prof. O. C. MARSH, Mr. W. E. BROOKS, Mr. JOSEPH WOLF, and Mr. H. B. HEWETSON.

OTHNIEL CHARLES MARSH.—The excellent piece of work upon the Toothed Birds of the Cretaceous System of Kansas, published in 1880, has rendered the name of our Foreign Member, Prof. Marsh, well-known to all ornithologists. Othniel Charles Marsh, as we learn from a notice recently published in 'Nature,' was born in America in 1831, and was educated at Yale College, though he afterwards studied geology and palæontology at Berlin, Breslau, and Heidelberg, and thus widely extended his sphere of knowledge on these subjects. He was appointed to the Chair of Palæontology in the University of Yale in 1866, and held this important post until his death on the 18th of March last. He was also palæontologist to the U.S. Geological Survey for many years.

The name of Marsh (along with those of Leidy and Cope) will remain for ever illustrious in the annals of zoology for his long and remarkable series of discoveries in the extinct fauna of Western America. Marsh was not only an able writer on this subject, but also a most active and intrepid explorer, and is said to have crossed the Rocky Mountains in pursuit of his scientific work no less than twenty-one times between the years 1869 and 1888. As already stated, his claim to ornithological fame rests upon his monograph of the Odontornithes. In this quarto volume the astonishingly perfect skeletons of the extinct birds of the genera *Ichthyornis* and *Hesperornis*, which had been exhumed under his care from the Cretaceous beds of Kansas, were admirably figured and described.

Marsh was a Fellow of the Geological Society, a Member of the British Association, and a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society, and was also a frequent visitor to Europe, where he had many friends. He attended the meeting of the International Zoological Congress last year at Cambridge,

and many of us had the pleasure of greeting him there, little thinking that it would be for the last time we should meet our friend.

WILLIAM EDWIN BROOKS, formerly well known for his excellent work on the birds of British India, a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and a frequent contributor to this Journal, died at his residence, Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada, on the 18th of January last. Brooks was born in Ireland, near Dublin, on the 30th of June, 1828, but his parents were from Northumberland, and he spent his boyhood in that county. He was a civil engineer by profession, and was engaged for many years in the service of the East Indian Railway Company. From 1868 to 1880, during which period he was mostly resident at Etawah, in the North-west Provinces of India, Brooks devoted all his leisure time to observing and collecting birds, and was one of Mr. Hume's most valued coadjutors, having contributed 27 papers to 'Stray Feathers' from 1873 to 1880. At the same time he was sending frequent communications to the 'Proceedings' of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and to this Journal. In 1881 Brooks retired from the Company's service and emigrated to Canada, where he resided until the time of his decease, mostly in the province of Ontario, though at one time he moved over into British Columbia. One of Brooks's latest communications to the 'Ibis' was in 1894, and related to the species of *Phylloscopus*, on which difficult group he was recognized as a special authority.

JOSEPH WOLF, "without exception," in the words of Landseer, "the best all-round animal painter that ever lived," died at his rooms in Primrose-Hill Studios on the 20th of March last, at the age of 79. Wolf was a German by birth, the eldest son of Anton Wolf, a farmer of Moerz, in Rhenish Prussia. Showing but little taste for his father's pursuits, Wolf, at the age of 16, was apprenticed to a lithographer at Coblenz. Here his powers of observation and

delineation of animal-life were quickly recognised, and before long obtained him ample employment as a draughtsman.

The first piece of work which brought Wolf's name prominently before the scientific world was Rüppell's 'Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel Nord-Ost-Afrika's,' published at Frankfort in 1845. The lively and characteristic attitudes in which the fifty plates of birds comprised in this volume are depicted stand out in strong contrast to previous attempts of the same description, and are universally recognised as having instituted a completely new style of ornithological drawing. The figures of the birds in Temminck and Schlegel's 'Fauna Japonica' and those of the Hawks in Schlegel's 'Traité de Fauconnerie' still further increased Wolf's reputation, and the new artist was invited to come to England and complete the drawings for G. R. Gray's 'Genera of Birds,' which Mitchell was unable to continue owing to his appointment as Secretary of the Zoological Society. Wolf arrived in London in 1848, and prospered so well there that he never left it again, residing first in Howland Street, Fitzroy Square, and afterwards in Berners Street. In 1874 he removed to The Avenue, Fulham Road, but finding this too far from the Zoological Society's Gardens—his favourite place of study—he selected some chambers at Primrose-Hill Studios in 1878, where he passed the rest of his life. It is useless to sing the praises of Wolf's pencil to Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. They are all well aware that a large measure of the success attained by the present Journal in its earlier days must be attributed to Wolf's inimitable illustrations. The first plate in the first number of the First Series of 'The Ibis,' representing *Gymnoglaux nudipes*, was drawn by Wolf, and for the succeeding ten years his services were constantly given to us. Altogether he contributed upwards of 70 plates to 'The Ibis,' and ceased to render us his much valued assistance only because he gave up drawing on lithographic stone for branches of his profession which involved less attention to minute details not always of an artistic character. The last plate put on the stone by Wolf himself for 'The Ibis' was that of *Hypo-*

triorchis eleanore in the volume for 1869. Soon after this date also Wolf declined to draw on stone any more for the Zoological Society, but continued to prepare sketches for the 'Proceedings' and 'Transactions,' which were lithographed by Smit under Wolf's eye. For some account of the enormous amount of other first-rate work executed by Wolf every year of his life in London, until increasing age and infirmities slacked his masterly hand, we must refer our readers to 'The Life of Joseph Wolf' by A. H. Palmer, published in 1895, and illustrated by copies of many of his beautiful lithographs. We may, however, in conclusion, remind our readers that, besides scientific works, numerous volumes on sport and travel have been entirely or mainly illustrated by this industrious artist. Of these we may name Andersson's 'Lake Ngami,' Livingstone's 'Missionary Travels,' Atkinson's 'Amoorland,' Emerson Tennent's 'Ceylon,' Baldwin's 'African Hunting,' Bates's 'Naturalist on the Amazons,' and Wallace's 'Malay Archipelago,' while his splendid pictures of animal-life in oil, water-colour, and crayon are scattered widely over England among the mansions of those who were sagacious enough to appreciate the talents of this unrivalled delineator of birds and mammals.

In private life Wolf was a quiet, unassuming man, of generous and unselfish disposition, and always ready to help his younger brethren in the profession. He was much loved by a select circle of friends, with whom he had sympathetic tastes in art and science. Perhaps the most curious feature of Wolf's career was that he was never elected a member of the Royal Academy. But this fact, in our opinion, must be attributed rather to the want of discrimination of that illustrious body than to the discredit of Joseph Wolf.

HENRY BENDELACK HEWETSON, who was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1897, and was much attached to the study of birds, died at his residence in Leeds on the 15th of May last at the early age of 42 years. Mr. Hewetson was well known as an eminent oculist, and had achieved great success by his skill in the treatment of

diseases of the eye and ear. He was one of the honorary surgeons of the Leeds Infirmary, and in full practice in that city. Mr. Hewetson was also an artist of some repute, and in spite of his professional engagements found opportunities for travels and researches on the Continent and in Egypt.

XL.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed “to the Editors of ‘The Ibis’”:

SIRS,—As you may have seen by ‘The Auk,’ the next meeting of the A. O. U. is to be held at Philadelphia—the first time it has ever met here—the “cradle” of American ornithology, where so much was accomplished in the past. I hope that if any of our English friends are thinking of visiting America this autumn they will arrange to be in Philadelphia on November 13th, 1899. I can assure them of a warm welcome.

Yours &c.,

WITMER STONE.

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia,
February 18th, 1899.

SIRS,—I am able to inform you with very great satisfaction that the suggested Ornithological Meeting in Serajevo will take place on the 25th of September next, and last until the 29th. The letters of invitation will be sent out very shortly.

Yours &c.,

OTTO HERMAN,

Chief of the H. C. B. for Ornithology.

Hungarian Central Bureau,
Budapest, March 22nd, 1899.

SIRS,—In his ‘Manual of the Game-birds of India’ Mr. E. W. Oates raises the question whether the species of *Galloperdix* in life carry the tail like a fowl or like a Partridge, *i. e.* folded vertically or flat. The Calcutta